

They Scurried and the Co

**Thought the Apaches Were Comi**

APACHE TOWN, N. M., Aug. 17.—Nearly small wild animals have disappeared from prairies of southwestern New Mexico

past three years, and one may ride many over the ranges without seeing any little except the prairie dog. This lanky little animal, which is not a dog and does not resemble a dog in any respect, and whose alleged name is a querulous squeak, has survived drought probably because he burrows and eats the roots that have failed to send sprouts for other animals to feed upon. Jack rabbits that were innumerable

years ago are seen no more; they have starved to death or migrated. Even the has become a rare sight on the prairie when one of them lopes across the road a scraggy, lean, dispirited old tramp, with energy to yelp around a camp fire at night.

The disappearance of the coyote from part of the country may be accounted. About three years ago a citizen of It turned loose three mangy dogs under circumstances that insured their enrollment coyote pack, and the disease has proved to the wild dogs. It has swept them out

The reasons for the very notable decline in numbers of the skunk are not so clear. A few years ago, when the plains were over with slaughtered buffalo, the skunk was viciously prevalent. His lack of fear of man and his calm audacity in walking into

made him the terror of the prairie. Only this animal is simply unpleasant and not the skunk of the prairie is positively ferocious, and the cow puncher is as much of him as of a rattlesnake. The bite of a rattlesnake is venomous, and has proved fatal in cases, probably because of some disease of the animal or the habit of feeding on diseased animals. There is no doubt that a skunk will bite a human while he is asleep, and one's feet, but at night when wrapped in blankets and asleep near the campfire, a man's hand, cheek, or any other exposed part may be bitten by a hungry skunk.

omous varmint may have been one of the causes of his disappearance, for within last year there has been a marked increase in the numbers of skunks throughout the region of the southwest. In this place, no other varmints may be so potent in the extermination of the chief wild cat.

Over at Cow Spring there is an adobe hut not regularly occupied, but used by the boys when rounding up on that particular range. That is, the house has not been mainly inhabited for some time, but the place is still used by the boys. One day a man of the Diamond A outfit visited the cat was left there to keep the house of vermin, but solitude was too much for

and she fraternized with the skunks. The cow punchers arrived at the above place about 10 o'clock and found the cat and half a dozen skunks in the kitchen or chasing each other around the loose board floor. Any attempt to put out the skunks would simply make the house uninhabitable, and the boys acknowledged that they were "sute buffaloed," crapped out.

But one night Martin Mullen, the foreman, went to Cow Spring with the outfit, and he asked the boys why they didn't go into the house and cook supper on the stove to him that two or three skunks were there.

"No, they'd eat our corn out," said Martin.

"Texas," said Mullen, "is a skunk country."

didn't hanker for the acquaintance of "Skeeter" and Red. "Jack intimates that the chief aim of his existence was to meet a man who could tell how to take a skunk out of a man's head without serious consequences. I don't want to be a tail and carry him out," said Martin, in a tone implying that any man who didn't know how to take a skunk was an idiot. It was a clear hint on Martin's part, and he started away to evade explanations, but the boys called the bluff to experience. "You ought to show us how," said Texas, who was a little more than half-bred and completely ignorant about taking a skunk. "I ain't too proud to learn anything."

The foreman looked around upon the

think faces of the boys and saw that he e-  
 had to back down or make his play good  
 re-  
 he walked into the kitchen and the boys  
 treated out of France and sized up the  
 tion. The skunks were walking about  
 for scraps, with their tails in the air  
 Mr. In-  
 down upon a chair and waited  
 one of the boys in which he  
 a quick grab for the tail and lifted the  
 from the floor before it had time to turn  
 him. Stepping to the door, he held a  
 thatless skunk and nonchalantly remem-  
 bered that was the way to fall 'em.  
 that the man who had been told of  
 is not at the end of his trouble. If he  
 get somebody to help him let 'em, the last

of that man is worse than the first. Martin tried to hand the skunk to Texas, but the puncher was shy, and said he wanted to see it first. Then Red Jack suggested it would do no harm to give the skunk to death, and that would be a make-an awful example for the others. He proposed soaking the skunk with kerosene and touching him off with a match. Texas thought that was too cruel, but the crowd was so big that he could not resist their cruelty, and the end justified the means. So Martin handed the skunk to Jack Went back to the kitchen and caught one. Both were well soaked with coal oil, lighted and flung over the corral wall, and away

[illegible]

one night Texas Bill soaked and gassed the skunks and turned him loose under the corral after pouring coal oil down through the cracks. The skunk's associates, however, were not so easily fooled. They were a brief spate of the same skunk, and after some other disturbance under the floor and in the corral came an eruption of skunks and a scatter of cow bunches. Texas says it was Fourth of July and that the corral looked as if it had been touched off. The boys jumped the corral and got out of the way.

The floor of the adobe caught fire, of course, and was burned out, and while female skunks were snaked out of their nests, the corral gate was thrown open, and the w

The Shaun Jury Will Probably Disagree

TRENTON, Aug. 29.—The jury in the Shaw murder case will, it is believed, disagree. When last heard from they stood three for acquittal and nine for murder in the second degree. They have been balloting to-day. General expectation is that they will be sent into court to-morrow morning and asked to be discharged on the ground of disagreement.

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